

Appl. No. 09/655,232
Response dated March 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A marker system comprising:

an elongate catheter body;

an expandable member attached to a distal end of the catheter body; and

opaque markers positioned on the expandable member, wherein the opaque markers are arranged in a pattern.

7. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 6 wherein the expandable member is a balloon in fluid communication with the catheter body.

8. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 6 wherein the markers are opaque to light.

9. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 8 wherein the markers are opaque to visible light.

10-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 6 wherein the pattern forms a measuring index.

14. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 13 wherein the measuring index comprises a topographical index.

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15. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 6 wherein the opaque markers comprise an ink.

16. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 15 wherein the ink is fluorescent.

17. (Previously Presented) The marker system of claim 16 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.

18. (Previously Presented) A balloon catheter comprising:
an elongate shaft having a lumen therein;
a balloon attached to a distal end of the shaft and in fluid communication with the balloon; and
a means for measuring positioned on the balloon.

19. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 18 further comprising opaque patterns.

20. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 18 further comprising patterns which are opaque to light.

21. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 20 further comprising patterns which are opaque to visible light.

22-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 18 further comprising ink..

25. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 24 wherein the ink is fluorescent.

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26. (Previously Presented) The balloon catheter of claim 24 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.

27. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

inserting a catheter into a human body, the catheter comprising a shaft, a balloon mounted on a distal end of the shaft, and markers on the balloon;
advancing the balloon to a treatment site; and
visualizing the balloon relative to the human body using the markers.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using light.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using visible light.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using fluorescent light.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using infrared light.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using ultraviolet light.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the markers further comprise a pattern of ink.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein the ink is fluorescent.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.

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36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the markers comprise a measuring index.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further comprising using the measuring index to determine a parameter of the human body or the balloon.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the diameter of the balloon.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the topography of a body vessel.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the geometry of a restriction in a body vessel.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of visualizing the human body further comprises inserting a visualization device into the catheter.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the visualization device comprises an angioscope.